United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Citing need to consolidate recent progress in former Yugoslavia, Security Council extends UNPROFOR mandate to 30 September; authorizes increase of up to 3,500 troops in Force's strength, and says it will act on further needs by 30 April.

+ Secretary-General leaves New York for visit to Europe; will meet tomorrow in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister.

+ IAEA says international safety levels are not being met at Chernobyl nuclear power plant; Ukraine welcomes proposal for international meeting to discuss matter.

+ Secretary-General of UNCTAD concludes term of office.

+ Vladimir Petrovsky confirmed as Secretary-General of Conference on Disarmament.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) until 30 September. It also authorized an increase in UNPROFOR's strength of up to 3,500 troops, and said it would act by 30 April on the further troop needs recommended by the Secretary-General, to give the Force the means necessary to implement its mandate. In unanimously adopting resolution 908 (1994), the Council stressed that a strong and viable UNPROFOR was needed to consolidate recent progress in the former Yugoslavia.

The resolution approved UNPROFOR's plans for the reopening of Tuzla airport for humanitarian purposes and authorized the additional resources requested by the Secretary-General for that purpose. It called on Member States to assist him by contributing personnel, equipment and training. The Council also endorsed the Secretary-General's proposals on arrangements regarding the cease-fire and freedom of movement in Sarajevo.

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The Council said that Member States, acting nationally or through regional organizations, could take, under the authority of the Secretary-General and in coordination with UNPROFOR, all necessary measures to extend close air support to Croatian territory, in defence of UNPROFOR personnel. It urged Croatia and the local Serb authorities in the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) to comply with the cease-fire agreement concluded yesterday, and urged all parties to cooperate with UNPROFOR in reaching an agreement on confidence-building measures. The Council also demanded that the Bosnian Serb party end all military operations against Maglaj. Noting the Secretary-General's assessment of the feasibility of extending the safe area concept to the town, it asked him to keep the situation there under review.

The Council urged the parties in the former Yugoslavia to seize the opportunity provided by UNPROFOR's continuation to conclude the peace process successfully. It went on to say that it would reconsider the Force's mandate at any time according to developments on the ground and in negotiations at the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today left New York for Moscow, the first stop on his visit to Europe. The Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev tomorrow, and with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Monday, according to a United Nations spokesman.

The Secretary-General will leave the Russian Federation on Tuesday for Belarus, the spokesman went on to say. Among his other appointments next week, the Secretary-General is expected to meet in Geneva with Lakhdar Brahimi, his Special Representative for Zaire, to discuss the situation in that country.

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International safety levels are not being met at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). An inspection team organized by the Agency earlier this month found numerous safety deficiencies in the plant's two operational units, including design problems in Unit 1, poor working conditions, a loss of skilled personnel and limited procurement of up-to-date equipment. Another major problem was the accelerated deterioration of the shelter enclosing the destroyed Unit 4 reactor.

Ukraine agreed to the inspection after deciding last October to postpone closure of the plant. The country's President, Leonid Kravchuk, yesterday thanked the team for its work, describing the results as a significant input to the objective evaluation of the Chernobyl plant's safety level. He also welcomed a suggestion by IAEA Director-General Hans Blix that Ukraine convene an international meeting to consider how to alleviate the problems in the plant. The Agency anticipates that the meeting will take place in Vienna in the second half of April.

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The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Kenneth Dadzie, today left the service of the United Nations at the end of his term of office. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said he had accepted Mr. Dadzie's decision with great regret, describing him as an outstanding international civil servant who had demonstrated the highest intellectual and diplomatic skills and deepest dedication to the Organization.

Mr. Dadzie has been Secretary-General of UNCTAD since 1986, and previously served as Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation. He joined the United Nations in 1963.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today confirmed the appointment of Vladimir Petrovsky, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, as Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and as his Personal Representative to the Conference. Mr. Petrovsky has carried out those responsibilities on an interim basis since last December, and will continue to do so concurrently with his responsibility as Director-General of the Geneva Office.

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